

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 8146

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER)
SUBJECT: MEDIA COMMENT ON JEWISH DELEGATION ACCOMPANYING
VICE-PRESIDENT ON VISIT TO ISRAEL

1. ISRAELI MEDIA HAS BEEN CRITICAL REGARDING JEWISH LEADERS ACCOMPANYING VICE PRESIDENT'S DELEGATION. THE JUNE 25 MAARIV (DISSENCHIK) CLAIMED THAT JEWISH LEADERS ARE ASKING THEMSELVES WHETHER THEIR PRESENCE WOULD NOT BE READ AS JEWISH BACKING FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY. HAARETZ U.S. CORRESPONDENT MARCUS IS EVEN MORE BLUNT. HE NOTED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT IS COMING TO ISRAEL AT A CRITICAL STAGE OF U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS ("WHEN THE 'TAIWANIZATION' OF ISRAEL IS AT ITS PEAK") AND STATES THE ADMINISTRATION IS WORKING SO THAT AMERICAN JEWS WILL BE ON THE U.S. SIDE IN THIS CONFRONTATION. HE ADDS THAT WHILE THE JEWISH LEADERS ACCOMPANYING MONDALE ARE NOT BEING ASKED TO DO ANYTHING SPECIFIC, THEIR MERE PRESENCE ALONGSIDE THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE A VERY OBVIOUS MEANING. MARCUS STATES THAT IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT THESE JEWISH LEADERS ARE BEING USED. HE FINDS IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT THESE PEOPLE, WHO ARE INTELLIGENT AND HIGHLY ATTACHED TO ISRAEL, HAVE NOT NOTED THIS, BUT SUGGESTS THAT THEIR COMMON SENSE HAS DESERTED THEM AND HONOR HAS OVERCOME THEIR SELF-RESPECT.

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2. DAVAR (BLOCH) ADDS THAT GOVERNMENT SOURCES HAVE CRITICIZED THE WILLINGNESS OF NUMEROUS JEWISH LEADERS TO ACCOMPANY MONDALE, ESPECIALLY AS THEIR AGREEMENT CAME AFTER THE POLITICAL NATURE OF THE VISIT EMERGED AND FOLLOWING THE U.S. YIELDING TO PRESSURE BY SADAT AND AGREEING THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT ALSO VISIT EGYPT.

3. COMMENT: ISRAELIS TEND TO DWELL A GREAT DEAL ON THEIR INTER-RELATIONSHIPS WITH JEWS ABROAD AND ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED OVER SITUATIONS SUGGESTING CONFLICTS OF LOYALTY. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WITH REGARD TO AMERICAN JEWS. THE SUSPICION THAT THEIR FELLOW JEWS ARE BEING "USED" AGAINST THEM, AND SUCCESSFULLY AT THAT, RUBS A VERY SORE SPOT. EVEN SO, ONCE THE U.S. JEWISH LEADERS ARE HERE, WE WOULD GUESS THE ISRAELIS WILL CHANGE THEIR EMPHASIS AND SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME TRYING TO CONVINCE THESE VISITORS THAT THE ADMINISTRATIONS'S POLICY TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST, AND ESPECIALLY ISRAEL, IS WRONG.
LEWIS

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